Under the Department of Science & Technology, a National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) has been set up with the specific aim of improving the entrepreneurial capabilities of Science & Technology personnel and generating schemes for self-employment in the Science & Technology sector.

Enquiry against Director, GMERI, Durgapur

1266. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news published in the Durgapur weekly newspaper 'Shilpa Parikrama' of 18th December, 1985 about the nepotism of the Director, General Mechanical Engineering Research Institution, Durgapur;

(b) whether any impartial enquiry was made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the charges are vague and unspecific, no enquiry is made.

(c) Does not arise.

Programme of World Conservation Strategy

1267. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI P.N. SUKUL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote the 1980 programme of the World Conservation Strategy; and

(b) whether activities of the World Wildlife Fund proposed to be given a new lease of life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Status papers for conservation strategies in 22 sectors broadly covering all aspects of environment have been commissioned.

(b) World Wildlife Fund (India) is a non-government body not dependent upon government financial support.

International Seabed Authority

1268. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four pioneer investors France, Japan, Soviet Union and India in the International Seabed Authority met in Geneva in December, 1985 to finalise the rules for the registration of applications for the allotment of deep sea mining sites; and

(b) whether rules were finalised for applications to avoid overlapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The four Pioneer Investors met in Geneva in December, 1985 at an informal meeting for a different purpose; namely to resolve the problem of overlaps in the application areas between Soviet Union, France and Japan.

(b) Does not arise.